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NPIC/TSSG/RED-040-70  
28 January 1970

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chief, Research & Engineering Division, TSSG  
SUBJECT : Foreign Travel Rationale for European Trip for Messrs.  
[redacted]

General

a. The purpose of this trip will be to visit foreign optical industries, methodological and photographic facilities capable of supplying unique equipment and techniques for NPIC operational components for use in photographic imagery exploitation and additionally, to visit certain foreign photographic intelligence production units which utilize exploitation techniques and equipment previously developed by our organization. The subject trip will provide the following benefits:

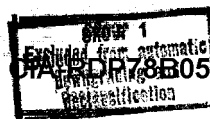
(1) We have only one major supplier for precision optical instruments where large volume production is involved -- [redacted]  
[redacted] There is only limited state-side competition with little hope for change in the near future. As a consequence, it behoves us to be intimately aware of commensurate foreign capabilities. With the exception of [redacted] the majority of microscopes and other high quality viewing and mensuration equipment have been built in Europe.

(2) Because European countries are close together, moving from one to another is like moving from one state to another in the United States. As a consequence, a tremendous portion of the state-of-the-art in precision optics and precision measuring equipment can be seen within a relatively short period of time.

(3) Practically all first-order stereo plotters have been built in Europe. Furthermore, most large photographic copying equipment (e.g., [redacted] enlarger and the [redacted] SEG-5 production enlargers currently employed by the Photo Lab) was built in Germany and Switzerland respectively. A large portion of the production color processing equipment used in the U.S. comes from Germany, and the majority of production-type stereo comparators has been built in [redacted]

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(4) Practically all of the optical quality glass used in RED developmental products is produced by [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] The stereo comparators and precision viewing equipment of extremely high quality produced in the United States have been mostly one of a kind items.

(5) As a consequence of these facts, a comprehensive overview of the state-of-the-art in the design and manufacturing of precision optics, particularly in production quantities, would require a thorough inspection of European facilities. Furthermore, considerable information could be obtained on those manufacturing parameters related to [REDACTED] Viewing System Study.

b. There are a number of foreign photographic interpretation facilities which could be visited to see how our system materials are exploited in considerably more austere facilities than we have here at the Center. It is predictable that recommendations can be made from first-hand observation as to how our equipment can be made more useful for utilization at these field installations without changing its basic efficiency or altering its primary function for fulfilling our objectives.

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These are only representatives of the broadness of the educational experience that could be obtained on such a trip. If you desire to proceed, I would be glad to formulate an itinerary with specific countries, companies, and contacts. The trip could be accomplished in one and one-half to three weeks, depending upon the number of stops ultimately decided upon.

[REDACTED]  
Deputy Chief,  
Research & Engineering Division

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